

have got hundreds and hundreds of property...of homeowners taxpayers that are angry as all get-out at what is happening in Douglas County to their level of property taxes. We Douglas County people have the worst property tax situation in the State of Nebraska and those are residential homeowners and you have got people in your legislative district who are adversely affected, who are terribly impacted by property taxes, and the one message that these unorganized people who have no lobbyist, who have no real organized fervor are telling us time and time again is that this state has tolerated too high a burden in property taxation. Please, they say, do something for us on property tax relief. So the Revenue Committee has now put on the floor two bills that deal with property tax relief. I suspect we will put a couple of more bills on the floor that deal with property tax relief and they are the big time bills. I do not know if those bills will pass or fail. I hope that one or more passes but the truth of the matter is you and I simply cannot send a signal to the Revenue Committee and to ourselves that we are prepared to turn down property tax relief, even of the modest version contained in the \$18 million homestead exemption, because we need the money to fund other state endeavors. If we continue operating along that philosophy, we continue to tolerate and endure a status quo system which for ten years now has denied the property taxpayer of our state of the kind of relief that the overburdened property taxpayer requires. So I suggest that this is not an opportune time to raise LB 210. I think that it is appropriate to simply say to the public, to the Governor, that we are determined to fashion some kind of property tax relief. We are not going down the status quo path. We are going to make certain that something is done this legislative session. We are going to make certain that the least...if it is the least that we do, it is we provide the \$18 million to that homestead exemption which will represent the highest homestead exemption homeowners have ever had in the State of Nebraska and which even then is a very modest homestead exemption. Senator Pappas says, we will raise LB 210 and just let the sucker, you know, just let it sit there until the very tail end of the session. It takes 30 votes today to raise LB 210. It would take 30 votes at the end of the legislative session to suspend the rules to raise a dead bill beyond the five-day time period that you have for filing the request to raise a dead bill. The vote count is identical. My feeling is is that you simply leave LB 210 dead because that represents